

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187531

22
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:WTDIROLL:JH
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R 290223Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS STATE 187531

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GT

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES IMPORT DUTY ON HONEY

REF: GUATEMALA 5276

1. CONTRARY TO REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL, THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (STR) HAS NOT RPT NOT SUBMITTED ANY RECOMMENDATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE PENDING REQUEST FOR IMPORT RELIEF ON HONEY.
2. FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ITC) UNDER TITLE II OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 (THE IMPORT RELIEF PROVISION) THE ITC RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. IMPORT DUTY APPLYING TO HONEY BE INCREASED. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED ON AN ITC DETERMINATION THAT SUCH ACTION IS NECESSARY TO REMEDY THREATENED SERIOUS INJURY TO THE DOMESTIC HONEY INDUSTRY WHICH THE ITC FOUND TO EXIST AS A RESULT OF INCREASED IMPORTS. THE ITC HAS PROPOSED THAT UP TO 30 MILLION POUNDS ANNUALLY BE PERMITTED TO BE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR

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PAGE 02 STATE 187531

AT THE CURRENT TARIFF OF ONE CENT PER POUND. ALL IMPORTS

EXCEEDING THAT AMOUNT IN ANY GIVEN YEAR WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL TARIFF OF 30 PERCENT AD VALOREM DURING FIRST THREE YEARS AFTER RELIEF BECAME EFFECTIVE. DURING

THE FOURTH YEAR THE ADDITIONAL TARIFF WOULD DECREASE TO 20 PERCENT, AND DURING THE FIFTH TO 10 PERCENT. THE RELIEF WOULD TERMINATE AT THE END OF THE FIFTH YEAR.

3. IN 1975, TOTAL UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF HONEY AMOUNTED TO 46 MILLION POUNDS (VALUED AT MORE THAN \$16 MILLION) REPRESENTING 20 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. MEXICO, ARGENTINA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND BRAZIL SUPPLIED 91 PER-CENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS.

4. AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE HEADED BY STR IS REVIEWING THE ITC REPORT PRIOR TO FORMULATION OF A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT MAY ACCEPT, MODIFY OR REJECT THE PROPOSED ITC TARIFF ARRANGEMENT AND HAS 60 DAYS FROM JUNE 29 IN WHICH TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION.

5. WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE GATT AND THE OAS THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE VIEWS OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS ON THE ITC REPORT. KISSINGER

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